



WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

Sustainability/Nachhaltigkeit

The students generally work on the concept of sustainability. The focus is on both the individual's own personal understanding of sustainability and the triangle of sustainability, which, based on rather abstract terms, makes the interrelationships between the three areas of environment, economy and society visible and thus opens up access to the various thematic areas of education for sustainable development: Water, resources, energy, climate, biodiversity, mobility, consumption, nutrition and fair trade.

- **Sustainability - a concept for the future**

The students work on the task in two groups (A/B). After a short individual work phase in a double circle, they explain their picture to each other and justify the choice with regard to sustainability.

Comments: All students can also work with the same task. It is also possible to start in the sitting or standing circle. All pictures are spread out in a larger format in the middle, the students select their pictures and work on the tasks individually. Subsequently, the exchange takes place either in a double circle or in a plenary session (depending on the class size).

- **What is sustainability?**

Depending on the students' level of proficiency, it is advisable to relieve the vocabulary beforehand.

Advanced learners can discover unknown words themselves using familiar methods.

The students read the text individually and clarify unknown words or phrases. The 5-step reading method is also well applicable here.

They then solve the task a) and b) and compare the solution with each other in partner work. The result will be discussed in plenary session.

- **The triangle of sustainability**

Here, the students should assign various abstract terms to the three areas of environment, economy and society.

Depending on the students' level of proficiency, it makes sense to take some time off the vocabulary and/or clarify various terms.

In this way, the students can roughly recognize global interrelationships and dependencies with regard to sustainability.

Sustainability - a concept for the future

What does sustainability mean to you?

a) Look at the following pictures.

What do you associate with sustainability?

Choose a picture, describe it and briefly explain your choice.



Picture number: _____

Describe your picture:

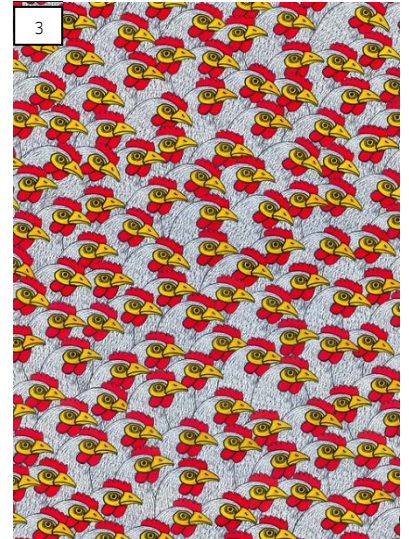
Why did you choose it? What does sustainability have to do with it?

b) In a double circle: Describe your picture and explain what it has to do with sustainability for you.

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- b) In a double circle: Describe your picture and explain what it has to do with sustainability for you.



What is sustainability?

Read the following information text:

"Fell only as much wood as the forest can take! As much wood as can grow back!"

Hans-Karl von Carlowitz was the first to formulate the principal of Sustainability as such in 1713 in his book about the economy of forestry ("Silvicultura oeconomica").

With this, he laid the foundation for the core idea of sustainability: So that future generations can also live well, it is important that we do not use the available raw materials ruthlessly or destroy nature, for example.

In the long term, the world community must not live at the expense of people in other regions of the world or future generations.

The focus is on a good life: for us, for our children, for as many people as possible and for future generations. At the same time, the opportunities for all people on earth must be distributed fairly. It's not fair for some people to waste everything.

Today's concept of sustainability is comprehensive: the environment, the economy and society influence each other and are interdependent. Economic and social progress requires an intact environment. Effective environmental protection can only be implemented if people live in economic and social security.

a) Briefly summarize what "sustainability" means:

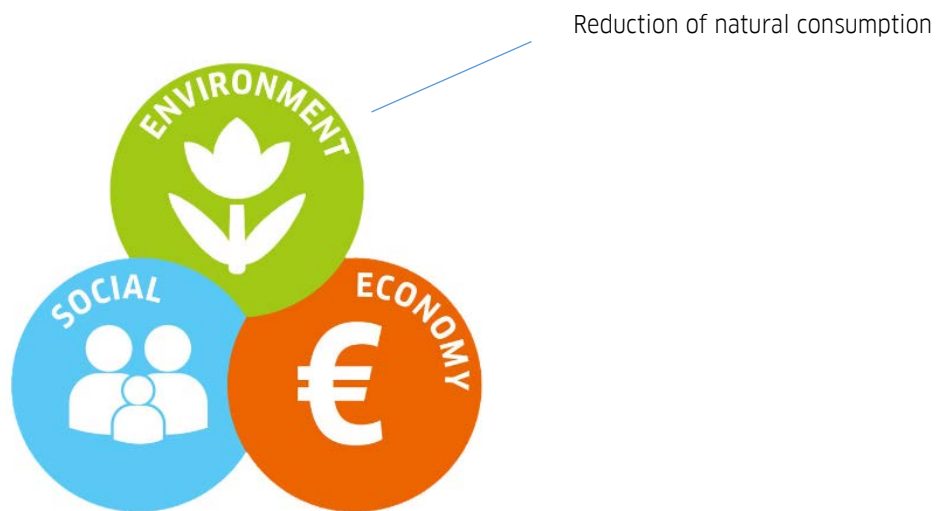
b) Living sustainably: Explain with your own words and an example what this sentence means:

"In the long run, the world community must not live at the expense of people in other regions of the world or future generations."

picture: ©pixabay.com

The triangle of sustainability:

Assign the following terms to the three headings Environment/Economy/Social (Society) below:



labour standards - democracy - stable economic development -
poverty reduction - technical innovation - equality - emissions avoidance -
consumption - fair trade - climate protection - gender equality -
promotion of school education - ~~reduction of natural consumption~~ -
corporate responsibility - ecological awareness - moral obligation -
eliminating injustice - protecting biodiversity

Solution:

Environment

- climate protection
- avoid emissions
- reduction of natural consumption
- ecological consciousness
- protection of biodiversity
- consumption...

Society

- poverty reduction
- Democracy
- elimination of inequality
- promotion of school education
- equal rights
- moral commitment
- participation
- consumption...



Economy

- stable economic development
- technical innovations
- corporate responsibility
- labour standards
- Fair Trade
- consumption

Some terms can appear in the triangle under several top points, e. g. consumption